

V. REMARKS

The drawing figures are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83 (a). The attached Replacement Sheet(s) of Drawings obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to because of informalities. The specification is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Kanji et al. (Japan Publication No. 2002-203657). Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kanji in view of Kelly. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to delimit the carrier to "capillary carrier". Both of the cited references, JP-2002-203657 (Kanji et al) and Kelly (US 4 380 786) disclose the carrier in the form of a duct or pipe, and do not suggest that the carrier may be realized by a capillary carrier. The amendment is supported in the specification, page 4, line 9 and lines 21 -23.

With this feature, the claimed invention is believed to be clearly distinguished from the prior art and is therefore allowable over the applied art.

Dependent claims 2 and 8 depend from amended claim 1 and are therefore allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not

explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

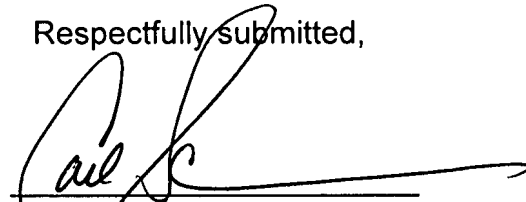
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 7, 2007

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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